

Mak, Chanda (ATG)

From: Lisa <lhoplhop@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:41 PM
To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel
Cc: comments@utc.wa.gov
Subject: Docket UE-200980

[EXTERNAL]

I am adamantly opposed to the proposed electricity rate increases for PSE. As justification for the rate increase, PSE cites higher gas prices. What? Gas costs shouldn't affect electricity prices to customers.

Even more outrageous, **PSE cites "decreasing customer electricity usage"** as a reason for rate increases. Like many citizens, I have paid extra to purchase Energy Star and other more efficient appliances and devices. Salespeople are quick to point out that you'll save money on lower utility bills with more efficient appliances. No you won't! When people use less, all the utility companies want to do is jack up the rates we pay for energy. Don't let them!

I strongly urge the Utility Commission to require PSE to lower their own operating costs, especially overhead costs. Require them to report and manage to metrics on office and administrative FTEs and salaries and other indirect costs. How have these costs changed over the last twenty years? Reduce over-inflated executive compensation if needed.

Our region is growing in population and electricity users. This should be an opportunity for PSE to spread their well-controlled overhead costs over an increasing base of customers. Rates should not have to increase! If anything, electricity rates should decrease.

I am in the process of evaluating how to replace the 27 year-old 80% single-stage gas furnace in my home. I had been interested in possibly converting to an electric furnace with a heat pump. I've received five estimates. The numbers are shocking. It's twice to three times as much as I remember paying for a new furnace. The rebates for a heat pump are disappointingly low, and non-existent if you stick with a gas furnace backup. I'd like to have a more energy efficient heat source for my home to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but I can't justify the much higher price tag and pressure this puts on my family budget. And, I likely wouldn't lower my monthly utility costs much in the long run since the utility companies argue for higher rates even when we all use less. So I'll probably stick with an 80% efficient gas furnace. There's no winning for the little guy.

Finally, I also strongly urge the Utility Commission to require PSE to offer good electricity offsets to customers who produce their own solar electricity to incentivize property owners to invest in solar technology. I know people who want to put solar panels on their homes, but the incentives are not strong enough. People should be able to share in the financial benefits of free power from the sun instead of having it all go to a monopoly utility company.

Lisa Hopkins



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com